

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-8, 11-14, 16 and 17 are pending. The Examiner's reconsideration of the rejections is respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks.

Claims 1 and 4-7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's suggestions regarding this rejection. Claim 1 has been amended in view of the suggestions, adding a processor limitation to the claimed method.

Claim 1 has been amended to include a processor, tying the claim to a statutory class. The limitation is supported by, for example, page 15, lines 6-8 (e.g., "a machine capable of executing the instructions").

Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4-8, 11-14, 16, and 17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner suggested that it is not clear whether the winning agents or agents (sellers and buyers) are matched to one another.

Claims 1 and 8 claim, *inter alia*, "computing a Vickrey discount to said plurality of winning agents in a cleared exchange as the difference between available surplus with all agents present minus available surplus without said plurality of winning agents, wherein the available surplus is a difference between an asked for payment from sellers and a bid payment from buyers, and wherein the winning agents are sellers and buyers matched to one another."

Claim 1 has been clarified to specify that winning agents are sellers and buyers matched to one another (as recited in Claim 8); sellers and buyers become winning agents upon being matched.

Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned should any issue arise concerning the amendments and/or claims.

For the forgoing reasons, the present application, including Claims 1, 4-8, 11-14, 16 and 17, is believed to be in condition for allowance. The Examiner's early and favorable action is respectfully urged.

Respectfully submitted,

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